



# Crime Watch News

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## COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION MEETING

**The topic for our August Crime Prevention Meeting is:**

**C-CAT**  
**Career Criminal Apprehension Team**

**Wednesday**  
**August 16, 2006**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**Long Beach Water Department**  
**1800 East Wardlow Road**

**Come out and learn about this elite unit, and how they deter criminals from making crime a full-time job!**

**Please join us for an informative evening. This Community Crime Prevention meeting is open to everyone. Please bring your friends and neighbors.**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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| Upcoming Events                                    | <b>1</b> |  |
| Neighborhood Watch Program                         | <b>2</b> | * <b>August 1, 2006</b> = National Night Out at Lowe's Home Improvement parking lot. For more information please call Community Relations at 562-570-7215.   |
| Telltale Signs that your neighbor is a "Bombmaker" | <b>3</b> | * <b>August 1, 2006</b> = Sea Festival: Moonlight Movies on the Beach at the Granada Launch Ramp. Various dates, including 8/8, 8/15, 8/22, and 8/29. For more information please call 562-434-1542. |
| Community Police Academy                           | <b>3</b> | * <b>August 11, 2006</b> = 19th Annual Long Beach Jazz Festival through 8/13 at the Rainbow Lagoon Park. For more information please call 562-424-0013.  |
| Appreciation BBQ Picture Showcases                 | <b>4</b> | * <b>August 19, 2006</b> = 1st Annual Council District #1 & Community Parents Safety Fair at Drake Park located at 951 Maine Ave, Long Beach. For more information please call 562-570-1146.         |



## Neighborhood Watch



### COMMUNITY POLICE ACADEMY

#### What is Neighborhood Watch?

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that involves individual neighborhoods working together with the Police to reduce crime. Our Crime Prevention Specialists educate residents on current area crime trends, crime prevention and safety techniques, recognition and reporting of suspicious activity, and additional police and city resources available to help fight crime in their neighborhoods.

#### Neighborhood Watch Meetings:

Crime Prevention Unit staff and Police personnel attend and conduct Neighborhood Watch meetings. They are usually 1 to 1 ½ hour in length and are held in a Block Captain's home or other nearby location. They are generally held one a month at the discretion of the group and availability of Crime Prevention Unit staff.

#### Who Should Be Invited:

All residents on the block should be invited to Neighborhood Watch meetings, as the more eyes and ears there are, the more effective the group will be. Purposely excluding renters or specific people causes tension and often makes residents feel that they are being discriminated against.

#### What is the role of the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator?

The Neighborhood Watch Program is administered by the Long Beach Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit, which is part of the Community Relations Division. The Neighborhood Watch Coordinator is responsible for

program promotion, fielding program inquiries, scheduling of Neighborhood Watch meetings, Council meeting notification (via weekly memo), scheduling speakers for meetings, and also conducting meetings. Our Neighborhood Watch Program Coordinator is PSA Lisa Massacani who can be reached at (562) 570-7229.

#### How does a resident start a Neighborhood Watch Group?

Residents wishing to initiate a Neighborhood Watch on their block should call the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, who will explain the program and provide additional resources as needed. The Coordinator will mail a "Neighborhood Watch Starter Packet", which includes information about the program and how to get it started. Neighborhood Watch brochures are currently available in English and Spanish.

#### Block Captains:

Block Captains are selected by each Neighborhood Watch Group. They are usually the organized resident who takes the first steps to get the group started. Block Captains should live on their block and should not be an absentee property owner or business person.



*The next Community Police Academy is scheduled to begin August 30, 2006.*

*This is a 15-week class, held on Wednesday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.*

#### **Participants must meet the following requirements:**

- ♦ *Live or work in the City of Long Beach*
- ♦ *Minimum age of 21 years or currently enrolled in L.B. City College*
- ♦ *No outstanding warrants, pending criminal cases, or felony convictions*
- ♦ *Must be able to attend all but two of the scheduled dates of the academy for admission consideration and graduation eligibility*



*If you're interested in participating in the February 2006 Class, please contact Sergeant Gail Dennison, Community Police Academy Coordinator, at (562) 570-5910. You can also download an application at <http://www.longbeach.gov/police/>*



## Telltale Signs that Your Neighbor is a “Bombmaker”

In January 1995, an apartment in Manila, Philippines, caught fire when bombmaking ingredients being mixed by wanted terrorism suspect Abdel Basit (aka Ramzi Yousef) reacted too quickly. Because of the fire, authorities were able to arrest two of Basit's co-conspirators and unravel several bombing plots. Basit himself fled to Pakistan, where he was apprehended a short time later. In a 1999 case, the so called “millennium bomber” Ahmed Ressay and an accomplice set up a crude bombmaking factory in an Empress Hotel room in Vancouver, British Columbia. Ressay later attempted to smuggle the explosives into the United States via ferry as part of his plan to blow up Los Angeles International Airport.

In order to keep bombmaking labs clandestine and highly mobile, explosives often are made in rented homes, apartments or hotel rooms. Because of how and where the bombs are made, however, it is possible for the average person to detect such an operation – and notify authorities in time to prevent an attack.

Similar to methamphetamine labs, makeshift bombmaking operations require quantities of volatile substances that are used in everyday life. Chemicals such as acetone, a common nail polish remover, and peroxide, commonly used in bleaching hair, can be found in most grocery, drug and convenience stores. Fertilizers, the main component of the bombs used in Oklahoma City and the 1993 World Trade Center attack, are found in large volumes on farms and in farm supply stores in rural communities.

Basit, one of the perpetrators of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, conducted the operation out of an apartment in Jersey City, N.J. The process of “cooking” nitroglycerine and urea nitrate created such strong chemical fumes that some of the paint on the walls changed from white to blue and doorknobs and hinges corroded. The bomb-makers also flushed some of the excess chemicals down the toilet, spilling some of them on the bathroom floor in the process and leaving burn marks. The conspirators also spilled chemicals on other floors and walls of the apartment, and on their clothing and other items, leaving plenty of trace evidence for investigators to find.

Hotel staff, landlords and neighbors can fairly easily notice signs that someone in their midst is operating a makeshift bombmaking laboratory. They should be suspicious, if a new tenant moves several bags of fertilizer into an apartment in the middle of a city, or if a person brings in gallons of acetone, peroxide, sulfuric or nitric acids, and tools such as beakers, protective gloves and masks. And, although electronic devices such as cell phones or wristwatches may not seem unusual in the context of a hotel room or apartment, signs that they have been modified or taken apart entirely should raise a red flag, as these devices are commonly used as detonators. Metal powders such as aluminum, magnesium and ferric oxide, large quantities of sodium carbonate – commonly purchased in 25-pound bags – and large containers of methyl alcohol, used to stabilize nitroglycerine, are other unusual items that might signal a bombmaker is present.

Depending on the size of the batch being concocted, the noxious fumes can bleach walls, curtains and, in the case of the London attackers, for example, the hair of the bombmakers. The fumes can even waft outside of the “lab” and be detected by neighbors in the vicinity. Spatter from the mixing of the ingredients is another way for hotel staff or landlords to recognize that something is amiss.

Given the caustic nature of the ingredients used, and the specific ratios required, making homemade explosives is one of the most dangerous aspects of planning an attack. Therefore, practicing situational awareness and notifying authorities of suspicious activities not only could prevent an attack elsewhere, it could save innocent lives in the vicinity of such a lab.

If you have any concerns please contact Homeland Security at (562) 570-9551, or if you see any suspicious activity please call 9-1-1, or (562) 435-6711 if calling from a cellular phone.



## TAKING A BITE OUT OF SUMMERTIME CRIME

As the temperatures rise in the summer months, so does the likelihood of certain crimes. Residential burglary is one crime that citizens need to take extra precautions to protect themselves against during the summer months. Many residential burglaries are committed during daylight hours, and without force, meaning the thief enters the residence through an unlocked door or window. While we all like to come home to a cool house, leaving windows open is a temptation to burglars. Screens are easily removed or cut, allowing access in a matter of seconds, without creating a lot of noise which might alert the neighbors.

Homes left unattended while residents are on vacation are also easy targets. Leaflets stuck to the door, newspapers piled up, no signs of activity in or around the home are sure signs that no one's home. By giving your home the "lived in" look, and enlisting the assistance of a trusted neighbor, residents can greatly reduce the chance of being the next victim.

- Purchase security devices for windows which allow a small opening to let air in, but keep thieves out!
- Set lights and radios on timers-sound and light inside a residence encourage a would-be thief to find an easier target. Dawn-to-dusk lights are great outside lighting-especially if you're going on vacation.
- When on vacation, ask a trusted neighbor to park in your driveway, move your trash bin, and remove any leaflets that may be left on your door. Stop deliveries of newspapers and mail.
- Barking dogs are great home security-so think twice before you chastise Fido for barking at strangers-he's doing his job! Don't forget to be sure pets have access to cool water at all times!
- Call 9-1-1 (or 435-6711 from cell phones) to report prowlers or people who appear to be casing homes.
- Schedule a home security presentation for your group to learn more great tips on keeping your home safe and keeping neighbors in communication and aware of the latest crime trends!

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